

KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

January 15, 2008

Rick Cagan, Convener
NAMI Kansas
PO Box 675
Topeka, Kansas 66601

RE: FY 2009 Budget Requests

Dear Rick:

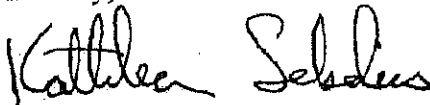
Thank you for your input throughout the budgeting process. Over the past five years we have made an historic commitment to K-12 and post-secondary education, reducing social services caseloads, improving transportation and strengthening our security. My budget fulfills each promise we have made while ensuring efficiency, accountability and careful fiscal management.

My budget recommends \$480.7 million to support Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs. This includes an addition of \$11.2 million in state and federal funds to lower waiting lists in HCBS—Developmentally Disabled programs. HCBS programs for the frail, elderly and physically disabled already operate without waiting lists, and my FY 2009 budget contains additional funding to continue this success.

Additionally, I am recommending the review of compensation for home and community direct care staff with consideration of a multi-year plan to expand community capacity through rate adjustments. These adjustments would include enhanced departmental oversight to ensure community providers are appropriately meeting direct care workforce needs.

Again, I thank you for your input and encourage our continued communication throughout the legislative session. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions you have.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of the State of Kansas

KGS: kb

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